



IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING AT SCALE

Background and Summary

Washington is currently working to implement Common Core State Standards (CCSS) across the state, which is debuting in classrooms in this 2013-14 academic year. Washington state has a unique educational governance structure consisting of various agencies, boards, and organizations. Therefore, in order to ensure successful implementation of CCSS, the state will need to coordinate the diverse agencies to form a common vision and plan for implementation.

The Improving Student Learning at Scale (ISLS) Collaborative, convened by the Washington Student Achievement Council, is working to guide implementation efforts relating to CCSS. Washington is one of six states that were selected by the National Governor's Association to establish a collaborative, along with Arizona, California, New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Wyoming. During the next year and half, the Washington leadership team plans to address the following objectives:

- Create a common vision between organizations for the work to be carried out.
- Develop a comprehensive communications plan.
- Facilitate planning and coordination across the state.
- Identify and connect CCSS implementation efforts across the state.

Focus Areas

The work group began meeting in December 2013. Since then, they have identified several focus areas of work. These include:

- Determine the use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment to inform 12th grade coursework.
- Create 12th grade transition courses for students not quite prepared for college-level work.
- Streamline dual credit enrollment to ensure equitable opportunities for all high school students.
- Enhance and strengthen High School and Beyond Plans.

Core State Team

The Washington state primary team members include the following individuals:

- Dr. Gene Sharratt, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
- Marcie Maxwell, Senior Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Legislative Affairs and Policy Office
- Representative Larry Seaquist, Chair, House Higher Education Committee
- Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Paul Francis, Executive Director, Council of Presidents
- Marty Brown, Executive Director, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
- Ben Rarick, Executive Director, State Board of Education

The Washington State team has expanded since the work began and now includes a team of more than 20 individuals from these agencies and others.